

April 2019

It is fair to say March has been a full-on month for us at St James. It has been exciting to see God move in and through so many different things.

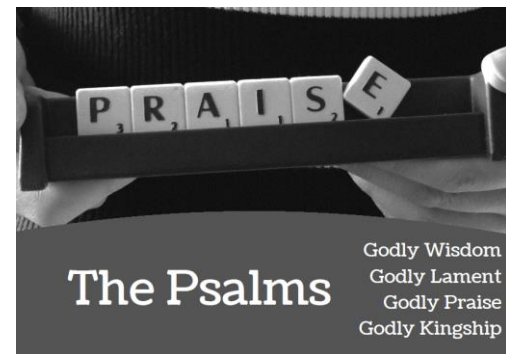
The month started with a Diocese-wide Bishops in Mission event. We held three events over three days: an Acoustic night, a student meal with a quiz, and a family fun day. 80 or so people crammed into the Baltic Social for an evening of live music, interspersed with a couple of testimonies and the next day we hosted the student quiz at St James. The family fun day was an action-packed morning full of crafts and activities for families, largely organised by Danielle, one of our congregation members (we are very thankful for her crafty skills).



All three events had new people, those who had not had contact with STJ before. The family event especially drew people who hadn't even been in a church before. Please pray as we follow up with those who came and ask God to continue to move in their lives.



Through Lent we have been running a midweek reflective series thinking about what we can give up. Each week, 15 or so have gathered each week for a chance to encounter God in a quieter space and it has proved to be a very rich time. We also started our series of four sermons looking at the Psalms.



Emily and Andy made the brave decision to get married inside our tent in the middle of March; they had to spend a fair chunk of time transforming the space but it was well worth it! The church looked beautiful, and more importantly it was a wonderful celebration as they started their married life together.



The highlight of March was, of course, our time away at Quinta. Cris Rodgers, from All Hallows, Bow spoke about following Jesus with our head, heart, and hands and was a dynamic mix of encouragement and challenge. We encountered God in worship, spent time in prayer with and for each other, ate together, laughed and cried together, chased arch-villains in the grounds together, and generally got closer as a family.

God was so faithful to us and we heard so many good news stories about what he was doing in our lives and in us as a family together. Huge thanks go to Kirsty and Tog who organised so much of the weekend and enabled it to run smoothly.



Everyone was still smiling on Sunday morning!



A few of the villains we had to catch...

April is set to be a quieter month, but please continue to pray for:

- Us to keep getting closer as a church family after Quinta.
- Our Easter services (incl. our Easter Egg hunt on Sat. 20th April).
- The shape of the staff team for September.
- Our students as they complete their final assessments and prepare for exams.
- Our families as the Easter holidays start and as we look to develop the families' ministry.
- Our adults as they continue to grow in numbers.

Thanks again for all your support.

Ed and the whole team at STJ.